

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/030,158	Applicant(s)	AKihiko Motegi
Examiner	Dov Popovici	Group Art Unit	2722

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/4/2000
 This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
 Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
 The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
 The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
 The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
 received.
 received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
 received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____


DOV POPOVICI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413
 Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 2722

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Notermans et al (U.S. 4,843,571) in view of Collard et al (U.S. 5,825,988).

As to claim 1, Notermans et al discloses a network print system comprising: a computer terminal (1) having, a processor (inherently), a computer user interface (4), and a computer display (5), the processor being configured to produce a print request message in response to information provided through the computer user interface (4), the print request message containing image data; at least one printer (3) communicatively coupled to the computer terminal (1), the at least one printer (3) having a printer user interface (8) with a data input device (13) and a data display device (14); and a host computer (2 and 6) communicatively coupled to the at least one printer (3) and the computer terminal (1) and configured to receive the print request

Art Unit: 2722

message, the host computer (2 and 6) having a memory (6) in which the image data is stored, and a host computer processor (2) configured to produce a identity code associated with the print request message and send the identity code to the computer terminal (1), wherein the computer terminal (1) being configured to display on the display (5) an indication of the identity code provided by the host computer (2 and 6), the host computer (2 and 6) being configured to recognize when the identity code is input to any one of the at least one printer (3) via the printer user interface (8) and provide the image data to the any one of the at least one printer (3) for printing. Notermans et al does not teach wherein the identity code is a job number. Collard et al teaches a network print system wherein stored data files are not printed until a go-ahead print command is received, wherein the go-ahead print command is a name of the data file; (see column 10, lines 30-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Notermans et al wherein: the identity code is a job number. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Notermans et al by the teaching of Collard et al because (1) for the reasons taught by Collard et al at

Art Unit: 2722

column 1, lines 20-55 and (2) so that the user identity code can be the job number of the job that the user wants to print.

As to claim 2, Notermans et al does not teach wherein the identity code is a job number and a computer user interface configured to receive a password entered by a user, the processor being configured to produce a print request message containing image data and the password, the host computer having a memory in which the image data and the password are stored, a host computer processor produces a job number and stores the job number in the memory in association with the image data and password and the host processor being configured to recognize when the job number and password are input to any one of the at least one printer via the printer user interface and provide the image data to the any one of the at least one printer for printing. Collard et al teaches a network print system wherein stored data files are not printed until a go-ahead print command is received, wherein the go-ahead print command is a name of the data file and a computer user interface configured to receive a password entered by a user, the processor being configured to produce a print request message containing image data and the password, the host computer having a memory in which the image data and the password are stored, a host computer processor produces a job number and

Art Unit: 2722

stores the job number in the memory in association with the image data and password and the host processor being configured to recognize when the job number and password are input to any one of the at least one printer via the printer user interface and provide the image data to the any one of the at least one printer for printing (see column 10, lines 30-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Notermans et al wherein: wherein the identity code is a job number and a computer user interface configured to receive a password entered by a user, the processor being configured to produce a print request message containing image data and the password, the host computer having a memory in which the image data and the password are stored, a host computer processor produces a job number and stores the job number in the memory in association with the image data and password and the host processor being configured to recognize when the job number and password are input to any one of the at least one printer via the printer user interface and provide the image data to the any one of the at least one printer for printing. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Notermans et al by the teaching of Collard et al

Art Unit: 2722

because (1) for the reasons taught by Collard et al at column 1, lines 20-55; (2) so that the user identity code can be the job number of the job that the user wants to print; (3) the password can be provided for extra security and making sure that the right user will receive his print job. As for the rest of the claimed subject matter, applicant is directed to the remarks and the discussion made in claim 1 above.

As to claim 3, Notermans et al discloses a printer memory (print queue) configured to hold a user identity code, at least one of the host computer (2 and 6) and the at least one printer (3) being configured to determine if an input data input through the printer user interface (8) of any one of the at least one printer matches the identity code and if so providing the image data to the any one of the at least one printer (3), the at least one printer (3) being configured to determine whether a identity code input via the printer user interface (8) matches the identity code stored in the printer memory and if so printing a document corresponding to the image data; (see column 5, lines 10-26). As for the rest of the claimed subject matter, applicant is directed to the remarks and the discussion made in claim 2 above.

Art Unit: 2722

As to claims 4-5, Notermans et al as modified discloses a secure method for printing a document in a network print system. The steps of claims 4-5 are similar to the network print system of claim 1, and are therefore similarly rejected.

As to claim 6, Notermans et al as modified discloses a secure method for printing a document in a network print system. The steps of claim 6 are similar to the network print system of claim 2, and is therefore similarly rejected.

As to claim 7, Notermans et al as modified discloses a secure method for printing a document in a network print system. The steps of claim 7 are similar to the network print system of claim 3, and is therefore similarly rejected.

As to claim 8, Notermans et al as modified discloses a secure network print system. The means plus functions of claim 8 are similar to the network print system of claim 1, and is therefore similarly rejected.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 1/4/2000 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Art Unit: 2722

A) With respect to the argument that "Notermans fails to disclose the use of a job number to correspond to a particular print request. Furthermore, Notermans fails to disclose the use of a password to protect against the unauthorized execution of a particular print request. The applicant submits that neither of these references teach or suggest a system where the print request and the execution of the print request are both under the total control of the user. In other words, neither of these reference disclose, teach or suggest a method or system where a user can, as one action, issue a print request from his terminal, and, as a second independent action, find an available printer of the network and cause the print request to be executed from that printer.", the argument has been considered, but is not found to be persuasive because of the following reason(s):

Notermans et al teaches a network print system including a computer terminal (1) having, a processor (inherently), a computer user interface (4), and a computer display (5), the processor being configured to produce a print request message in response to information provided through the computer user interface (4), the print request message containing image data.

Notermans et al further discloses at least one printer (3) communicatively coupled to the computer terminal (1), the at

Art Unit: 2722

least one printer (3) having a printer user interface (8) with a data input device (13) and a data display device (14); and a host computer (2 and 6) communicatively coupled to the at least one printer (3) and the computer terminal (1) and configured to receive the print request message, the host computer (2 and 6) having a memory (6) in which the image data is stored, and a host computer processor (2) configured to produce a identity code associated with the print request message and send the identity code to the computer terminal (1), wherein the computer terminal (1) being configured to display on the display (5) an indication of the identity code provided by the host computer (2 and 6), the host computer (2 and 6) being configured to recognize when the identity code is input to any one of the at least one printer (3) via the printer user interface (8) and provide the image data to the any one of the at least one printer (3) for printing.

Notermans et al does not teach wherein the identity code is a job number.

Collard et al teaches a network print system wherein stored data files are not printed until a go-ahead print command is received, wherein the go-ahead print command is a name of the data file; (see column 10, lines 30-60).

Art Unit: 2722

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Notermans et al wherein: the identity code is a job number.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Notermans et al by the teaching of Collard et al because (1) for the reasons taught by Collard et al at column 1, lines 20-55 and (2) so that the user identity code can be the job number of the job that the user wants to print.

Furthermore, with respect to the argument that "neither of these reference disclose, teach or suggest a method or system where a user can, as one action, issue a print request from his terminal, and, as a second independent action, find an available printer of the network and cause the print request to be executed from that printer.", the argument has been considered, but is not found to be persuasive because it is not directed to the claimed subject matter. The claims do not call for or recite "as a second independent action, find an available printer of the network and cause the print request to be executed from that printer."

Art Unit: 2722

B) With respect to the argument that "Notermans does not describe a system where the print request can be executed from any printer connected to a host computer.", the argument has been considered, but is not found to be persuasive because of the following reason(s):

The claims call for and recite "at least one printer". Furthermore, the claims call for and recite "said host processor being configured to recognize when said job number is input to any one of said at least one printer via said printer user interface and provide said image data to said any one of said at least one printer for printing." (See claim 1).

Notermans et al discloses at least one printer (3) communicatively coupled to the computer terminal (1), the at least one printer (3) having a printer user interface (8) with a data input device (13) and a data display device (14); and a host computer (2 and 6) communicatively coupled to the at least one printer (3) and the computer terminal (1) and configured to receive the print request message, the host computer (2 and 6) having a memory (6) in which the image data is stored, and a host computer processor (2) configured to produce a identity code associated with the print request message and send the identity code to the computer terminal (1), wherein the computer terminal

Art Unit: 2722

(1) being configured to display on the display (5) an indication of the identity code provided by the host computer (2 and 6), the host computer (2 and 6) being configured to recognize when the identity code is input to any one of the at least one printer (3) via the printer user interface (8) and provide the image data to the any one of the at least one printer (3) for printing.

The claimed recitation of "any one of the at least one printer" reads on printer (3) disclosed by Notermans et al, since only one printer is being claimed in the claims.

C) With respect to the argument that "Collard does not describe a system where the print request can be executed from any printer connected to a host computer.", the argument has been considered, but is not found to be persuasive because of the following reason(s):

The claims (i.e., claim 1) calls for and recites "at least one printer". Furthermore, the claims call for and recite "said host processor being configured to recognize when said job number is input to any one of said at least one printer via said printer user interface and provide said image data to said any one of said at least one printer for printing." (See claim 1).

Art Unit: 2722

Notermans et al is cited to disclose at least one printer (3) communicatively coupled to the computer terminal (1), the at least one printer (3) having a printer user interface (8) with a data input device (13) and a data display device (14); and a host computer (2 and 6) communicatively coupled to the at least one printer (3) and the computer terminal (1) and configured to receive the print request message, the host computer (2 and 6) having a memory (6) in which the image data is stored, and a host computer processor (2) configured to produce a identity code associated with the print request message and send the identity code to the computer terminal (1), wherein the computer terminal (1) being configured to display on the display (5) an indication of the identity code provided by the host computer (2 and 6), the host computer (2 and 6) being configured to recognize when the identity code is input to any one of the at least one printer (3) via the printer user interface (8) and provide the image data to the any one of the at least one printer (3) for printing.

The claimed recitation of "any one of the at least one printer" reads on printer (3) disclosed by Notermans et al, since only one printer is being claimed in the claims.

Art Unit: 2722

D) With respect to the argument that "no matter how Notermans and Collard are combined, the references do not teach or suggest the system of amended claim 1, and therefore, do not render obvious amended claim 1.", the argument has been considered, but is not found to be persuasive because of the following reason(s):

Notermans et al discloses a network print system comprising: a computer terminal (1) having, a processor (inherently), a computer user interface (4), and a computer display (5), the processor being configured to produce a print request message in response to information provided through the computer user interface (4), the print request message containing image data; at least one printer (3) communicatively coupled to the computer terminal (1), the at least one printer (3) having a printer user interface (8) with a data input device (13) and a data display device (14); and a host computer (2 and 6) communicatively coupled to the at least one printer (3) and the computer terminal (1) and configured to receive the print request message, the host computer (2 and 6) having a memory (6) in which the image data is stored, and a host computer processor (2) configured to produce a identity code associated with the print request message and send the identity code to the computer terminal (1), wherein the computer terminal (1) being configured to display on the display

Art Unit: 2722

(5) an indication of the identity code provided by the host computer (2 and 6), the host computer (2 and 6) being configured to recognize when the identity code is input to any one of the at least one printer (3) via the printer user interface (8) and provide the image data to the any one of the at least one printer (3) for printing.

Notermans et al does not teach wherein the identity code is a job number.

Collard et al teaches a network print system wherein stored data files are not printed until a go-ahead print command is received, wherein the go-ahead print command is a name of the data file; (see column 10, lines 30-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Notermans et al wherein: the identity code is a job number.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Notermans et al by the teaching of Collard et al because (1) for the reasons taught by Collard et al at column 1, lines 20-55 and (2) so that the user identity code can be the job number of the job that the user wants to print.

Art Unit: 2722

E) With respect to the argument that "because amended claim 2 contains similar limitations as amended claim 1 and because claim 2 contains a further limitation of password protection which, as mentioned above is not taught by Notermans, Notermans and Collard does not teach or suggest the system of amended claim 2.", the argument has been considered, but is not found to be persuasive because of the following reason(s):

Notermans et al does not teach wherein the identity code is a job number and a computer user interface configured to receive a password entered by a user, the processor being configured to produce a print request message containing image data and the password, the host computer having a memory in which the image data and the password are stored, a host computer processor produces a job number and stores the job number in the memory in association with the image data and password and the host processor being configured to recognize when the job number and password are input to any one of the at least one printer via the printer user interface and provide the image data to the any one of the at least one printer for printing.

Collard et al teaches a network print system wherein stored data files are not printed until a go-ahead print command is received, wherein the go-ahead print command is a name of the

Art Unit: 2722

data file and a computer user interface configured to receive a password entered by a user, the processor being configured to produce a print request message containing image data and the password, the host computer having a memory in which the image data and the password are stored, a host computer processor produces a job number and stores the job number in the memory in association with the image data and password and the host processor being configured to recognize when the job number and password are input to any one of the at least one printer via the printer user interface and provide the image data to the any one of the at least one printer for printing (see column 10, lines 30-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Notermans et al wherein: wherein the identity code is a job number and a computer user interface configured to receive a password entered by a user, the processor being configured to produce a print request message containing image data and the password, the host computer having a memory in which the image data and the password are stored, a host computer processor produces a job number and stores the job number in the memory in association with the image data and password and the

Art Unit: 2722

host processor being configured to recognize when the job number and password are input to any one of the at least one printer via the printer user interface and provide the image data to the any one of the at least one printer for printing.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Notermans et al by the teaching of Collard et al because (1) for the reasons taught by Collard et al at column 1, lines 20-55; (2) so that the user identity code can be the job number of the job that the user wants to print; (3) the password can be provided for extra security and making sure that the right user will receive his print job.

Furthermore, as to the argument made above that because amended claim 2 contains similar limitations as amended claim 1 ... Notermans and Collard does not teach or suggest the system of amended claim 2, applicant is directed to the remarks and the discussion provided above with regards to claim 1.

Conclusion

4. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2722

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dov Popovici whose telephone number is (703) 305-3830.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

Art Unit: 2722

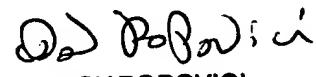
(703) 308-9051 (for formal communications intended for entry)

(703) 306-5406 (for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

Crystal Park Two
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA.
Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Dov Popovici
May 4, 2000


DOV POPOVICI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Dov Popovici
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2722